

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01
DHA-05 OES-07 FMC-01 DOTE-00 /108 W
-----125803 071237Z /53

R 061233Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3546
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA
USMISSION GENEVA
USUN NEW YOLRM 2529

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, NI
SUBJECT: NIGERIAN DOCKWORKERS THREATEN BOYCOTT TO SUPPORT
SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION

1. THE MAJORITY FACTION OF THE POWERFUL AMALGAMATED
DOCKWORKERS' TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS' UNION
(ADTGWU) LED BY LEFTIST BERNARD ODULANE, FORMER
ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE BANNED NIGERIAN TRADE
UNION CONGRESS AND GENERAL SECRETARY OF HIS FACTION OF
THE ADTGSU, HAS THREATENED TO BOYCOTT THE LOADING AND
UNLOADING OF ALL BRITISH, AMERICAN AND WEST GERMAN
SHIP IN NIGERIAN PORTS IF NO POSITIVE ACTION IS TAKEN
WITHIN 21 DAYS (I.E. BY SEPTEMBER 15, 1977) TO DISLODGE
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THE WHITE REGIMES IN SOUTH AFRICA AND ZIMBABWE.

2. A THREE-MAN DELEGATION OF THE ADTGWU, INCLUDING THE
UNION'S PRESIDENT, SECRETARY AND TREASURER, VISITED
DODAN BARRACKS AUGUST 25 TO DELIVER A LETTER CONTAINING
THE UNION'S THREAT TO HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO. ALTHOUGH
THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED INTO DODAN BARRACKS, THE OFFICE

OF CHIEF OF STAFF ACCEPTED THE LETTER AND PROMISED TO
DELIVER IT TO "THE APPROPRIATE QUARTERS.-

3. COPIES OF THE LETTER WERE ALSO SENT TO THE SECRETARY
TO THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN THE CABINET
OFFICE, AND TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT. IN
ADDITION TO THREATENING A BOYCOTT, THE UNION EXPRESSED
ITS SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROTEST AGAINST REPRESSION
OF BLACK TRADE UNIONISTS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND ZIMBABWEM
THE UNION ALSO SAID IT WISHED TO COLLECT VOLUNTARY
DONATIONS FROM ITS MEMBERS TO ENABLE IT TO SEND SOME
MEMBERS TO FIGHT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

4. ODULANS, LEADER OF THE ADTGWU, ATTENDED FRIENDSHIP
UNIVERSITY IN MOSCOW AND RETURNED TO NIGERIA AROUND 1972,
JOINING THE BANNED NIGERIAN TRADE UNION CONGRESS. HE
HAS REPUTATION FOR FOMENTING TROUBLE IN PORTS SINCE HIS
APPOINTMENT AS GENERAL SECRETARY OF FACTION OF DOCKWORKERS'
UNION AND HAS BEEN ARRESTED SEVERAL TIMES IN PAST.

5. A MINORITY FACTION IN THE UNION LED BY MR. JONAS
ABEM, MEMBER OF BANNED UNITED LABOR CONGRESS OF NIGERIA
(ULC), TOLD EMBASSY POLITICAL/LABOR ASSISTANT THAT HIS
FACTION WOULD NOT SUPPORT POLITICAL STRIKE OF THIS NATURE.

6. COMMENT: IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT GOVERNMENT WILL ALLOW
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ADTGWU TO BOYCOTT SHIPPING BECAUSE IT WOULD WORSEN ALREADY
DIFFICULT SITUATION IN NIGERIAN PORTS, PUSH DOMESTIC
INFLATION AND, ALTHOUGH TECHNICALLY NOT VIOLATION OF
FMG'S ANTISTRIKE DECREE, WOULD ALLOW UNION TO DISPLAY
TOO POWERFUL A POSITION. AT SAME TIME, FMG IS IN
DIFFICULT SITUATION ATTEMPTING TO STOP SUCH ACTION SINCE
IT IS IN SUPPORT OF FMG AIMS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. FMG
WILL MOST LIKELY MEET WITH UNION LEADERS TO DISSUADE THEM
FROM CARRYING OUT THREAT. IF UNION ATTEMPTS TO ENFORCE
ITS BOYCOTT, GOVERNMENT MAY USE FORCE TO BREAK STRIKE AS IT
HAS IN PAST.
WYMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOYCOTTS, LONGSHOREMEN
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770996/aaaadcpe.tel
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Litigation History:
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TAGS: ELAB, NI, SF, (ODULANE, BERNARD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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